

Society Participates in a Joint Grave Marking Ceremony Jun 29 2019

Joint Grave Marking by Virginia Society SAR and Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia for Patriots Buried in the Wren Darne Cemetery, Falls Church, VA

On June 29, 2019, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), and the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, held a joint grave marking of the graves of Revolutionary War Patriot Colonel James Wren, Fairfax County Militia, and War of 1812 Patriots John S. Wren (5th Regiment Virginia Militia) and Robert Darne (1st Corps d'Elite Virginia Militia). These patriots are buried in the Wren Darne Cemetery in Falls Church, Virginia. Tim Dioquino, President of the Fairfax Resolves VASSAR served as Master of Ceremonies. The VASSAR Color Guard added to the solemnity by posting and retiring colors, as well as giving a 21 musket salute. Pete Green, a neighbor who led the effort to restore the cemetery and make it the attractive park setting that is now, talked about the history of the property. Details are on his website: <https://wrendarneceemetery.org/> . . Paul Walden, Secretary of the Society of the War of 1812, discussed the biography of War of 1812 Patriots John S. Wren and Robert Darne. Other Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia defenders who participated were Pete Davenport (President, VASSAR) and Dale Corey (President, Col. James Wood II Chapter VASSAR).

John S. Wren was born in Virginia in 1766 and died at the Longview estate in 1821. The Longview manor house, adjacent to the Wren Darne Cemetery, was built by his father Col. James Wren and has been restored by the current owner. John married Sarah Hite in 1790 who died at Longview in 1843. John was the son of James Wren, the architect of Christ Church in Alexandria and the Falls Church nearby. He built and operated Wren's Tavern, located nearby on Broad Street. This tavern hosted two presidents: Thomas Jefferson and later James Madison, during the flight from Washington DC when it was burned by the British in 1814. John served in the 5th Regiment of the VA Militia in the War of 1812. This unit helped defend the Northern Neck against the British incursions during the war. There is also a record of a John Wren being commissioned in the Fairfax Militia in 1793. He was the father of Verlina Wren, wife of the other War of 1812 Veteran interred at this cemetery, Robert Darne. The Wren family has a long history in Virginia: the ancestor of John Wren is believed to be Nicholas Wren, who arrived in Virginia in the middle 1600s.

Robert Darne was born in 1778 in Fairfax County, Virginia and died at the Longview estate on 22 Aug 1873. At his death, the Alexandria Gazette stated that he was probably the oldest man in Fairfax County at 95 years of age. Robert was a private in the 1st Corps d'Elite, which was a group of cavalry and light armed infantry that was formed in the fall of 1814. It was to be a rapid moving flying camp created out of the massed militia units around Richmond called there by Virginia Governor Barbour because of the threat of British invasion based on the large number of ships entering the capes of Virginia on their way to support British Rear Admiral Cockburn and the later planned assaults on Washington and then Baltimore. Virginia authorities guessed the armada was aimed at Virginia and thus a large numbers of militia were called out for defense. There were two elite corps created, each existed for only a few months. The 1st Corps d'Elite was commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas Randolph, Thomas Jefferson's son-in-law and operated in the New Kent County area from September to October 1814.

Expressions of Appreciation

Pete & Nancy Greene, Owners of the Wren-Darne Cemetery
Tom and William Carroll, Descendants of James Wren
David and Karin Magness, Colonel Wren's Long View Homeowners
Peter Davenport, President, Virginia Society, SAR
William Schwetke, 1st Vice President, Virginia Society, SAR
Jeff Thomas, 2nd Vice President, Virginia Society, SAR
Tim Dioquino, President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR
Dale Corey, President, Colonel James Wood II Chapter, SAR
Leamon Duncan, Historian, Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR
Michael Dennis/Charles Jameson, Culpeper Minutemen Chapter SAR
Ken Morris, President, George Mason Chapter, SAR
Richard Rankin/Tom Roth, George Washington Chapter, SAR
Paul Walden, Past President, G. W. Chapter, SAR; Member, Society of the War of 1812; Chaplain, Sons and Daughters of VA Founding Fathers
David Embrey, Compatriot, Charles Carroll Chapter, MDSSAR
Cat Schwetke, Honorary Regent, Fauquier Court House Chapter, DAR
Beth VanDoren Boswell, Regent, Freedom Hill Chapter, DAR
Jill Cook, Bobette Orr, Nina McVeigh, Freedom Hill Chapter, DAR
Angelica Betts Stephens, Providence Chapter, DAR

Pledge of the Sons of the American Revolution

We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

Sons of the American Revolution Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.

Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution Virginia Society of the War of 1812



Official Grave Marking and Remembrance Ceremony for

**Colonel James Wren
Fairfax County, VA Militia
John S. Wren and Robert Darne
War of 1812 Veterans**

**Saturday, June 29, 2019
10:00 AM**

**Wren-Darne Cemetery
2615 Hillsman Street
Falls Church, VA 22046**

Welcome and Greetings **Tim Dioquino**
President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR

Invocation **Lawrence McKinley**
Past President, VA Society & Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR

Presentation of Colors **VASSAR Color Guard**
Darrin Schmidt - Commander, Paul Christensen, Dave Cook, Dale Corey,
Pete Davenport, Michael Dennis, Dave Embrey, Charles Jameson, Marc
Robinson, Bill Schwetke *Color Guard helps with setup, programs

The Pledge of Allegiance **All Present**
Compatriot John R. Stewart, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR

Pledge of the SAR **All Present**
Compatriot Ben McVay, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR

Posting of the Colors **VASSAR Color Guard**

Introduction of the Guest Speakers **Tim Dioquino**

History of the Wren – Darne Cemetery **Pete Greene**

Lives of John S. Wren and Robert Darne **Paul Walden**
The Society of the War of 1812

Life and Legacy of Colonel James Wren **Jeff Thomas**

Unveiling of the Grave Marker **Steve Stephens**
Fairfax Resolves Chapter

Grave Marker Dedication **All Present**
Jeff Thomas, 2nd Vice President, VA Society, Past Chapter President

By placing these Revolutionary War and War of 1812 grave markers near your gravestones in this cemetery, we attribute recognition to you, for your outstanding service. God bless you and God bless these United States of America for which you fought. We are ever so humble in your presence.

Wreath Presentations

Virginia Society, SAR Jeff Thomas, 2nd Vice President
Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR Vern Eubanks, Past President
The Society of the War of 1812 Paul Walden
Colonel James Wood II Chapter, SAR Dale Corey, President
Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR Leamon Duncan, Historian
Culpeper Minute Men Chapter, SAR Charles Jameson, Vice President
Dan River Chapter, SAR Bill Schwetke, Compatriot
George Mason Chapter, SAR Ken Morris, President
George Washington Chapter, SAR Richard Rankin, Secretary
Fauquier Court House Chapter, DAR Cat Schwetke, Honorary Regent
Freedom Hill Chapter, DAR Beth VanDoren Boswell, Regent
Providence Chapter, DAR Angelica Betts Stéphans

Closing Response **All Present**
Bill Denk, Historian, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR

We, the members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, and the Virginia Society of the War of 1812 have emplaced these grave markers to pay tribute and to honor you forever. We hope that all who may see these markers in future will be reminded of your service for out liberty and freedom.

Musket Salute **VASSAR Color Guard**
Paul Christensen, Dave Cook, Patrick Corey – Drummer, Pete Davenport,
Michael Dennis, Marc Robinson, Bill Schwetke

Taps **Michael Fox**
Bugles Across America

SAR Recessional **All Present**
Ken Bonner, Immediate Past President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR

Benediction **Lawrence McKinley**
Past President, VA Society & Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR

Colonel Wren's Long View Open House follows Ceremony



JOHN S WREN
5 REGT VA MILITIA
WAR OF 1812
1766 1821



VA WAR OF 1812 SOCIE



Above Paul Walden, Secretary of the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia is shown by the gravesite and with the society wreath he presented